



News Release

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Students Bring Their Research to the Capitol

PIERRE, S.D. – Ten undergraduate students from South Dakota colleges and universities will demonstrate firsthand the important linkages between research and higher education when they share results of their research efforts with state lawmakers next Tuesday.

The 2009 Student Research Poster Session runs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17, in the State Capitol Rotunda. The public is invited to attend.

The 10 represent students statewide who are pursuing research in a variety of disciplines. “Research involvement by students requires initiative that goes well beyond the regular classroom, but the payoff in terms of developing problem-solving skills and special expertise is greatly enhanced,” said Gary Johnson, system vice president of research for the South Dakota Board of Regents.

Johnson said the poster session, now in its 12th year, takes on a new look this year. In the past, more than 100 students came to the Capitol Rotunda for a day-long event. This year, in an effort to better highlight the unique contributions of student researchers, 10 students earned this special opportunity to present their research to legislators.

In addition to the students’ research, there will be displays from the state’s six public universities, the South Dakota Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network (BRIN), and South Dakota’s Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). These higher education institutions and programs have greatly benefited from the state’s investments in research, Johnson said.

The students chosen to participate in Tuesday’s event are:

- Jake Miller, **Pierre**, representing Black Hills State University
- Nicholas J. Kruse, **Pierre**, representing Dakota State University
- Alyssa Smidt, **Sioux Falls**, representing Northern State University
- Terence Satchell, **Milford, Neb.**, representing South Dakota School of Mines & Technology
- Matt Hein, **Sisseton**, and Ryan Larsen, **Elk Point**, representing South Dakota State University
- Andrea Gorden, **Milbank**, and Keenan Thomas, **Rapid City**, representing The University of South Dakota
- Daniel S. Day, **Vermillion**, representing Augustana College and BRIN
- Natasha Bordeaux, **Mission**, representing Sinte Gleska University and EPSCoR